GIVING EXTRAORDINARY KIDS A CHANCE TO BE ORDINARY

YOU MADE THIS POSSIBLE
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“Be prepared to have fun, and learn so much about yourself and how brave you really are!”
— 2023 Brigadoon Camper

THANKS TO YOU!
YOU MADE THIS POSSIBLE!

WEEK ONE
Camp Silly-Yak
Celiac Disease
Leadership Camp
Mixed Conditions

WEEK TWO
Camp Braveheart
Heart Conditions
Camp Clots-o-Fun
Bleeding Disorders
Camp Trailblazers
Craniofacial Differences

WEEK THREE
Arthritis Society Canada’s
Camp JoinTogether
Juvenile Arthritis

WEEK FOUR
Camp Kedooopse
Family Bereavement
Camp BELIEVE
Parental Mental Illness

WEEK FIVE
Camp Lots-a-Wata
Kidney Disease
Camp Whatcha Say
Deaf or Hard of Hearing

WEEK SIX
Camp See-Ya
Blind or Visually Impaired
Camp Carpe Diem
Epilepsy
Camp Brainiac
Neurosurgery Conditions
Camp Scoliosis
Scoliosis

WEEK SEVEN
Camp Guts & Glory
Crohn’s, Colitis, Ostomy, Cecostomy

WEEK EIGHT
Canadian Cancer Society’s
Camp Goodtimes
Living With or Beyond Cancer

WEEK NINE
Camp Treasure Chest
Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Lung Conditions

HIGHLIGHTS | DONOR IMPACT 2023 | YOU MADE THIS POSSIBLE!
TOP 5 MAGIC MOMENTS

By Malcolm Elliot

1. **Our Junior Counsellor Program (JCP)** is for campers who have graduated from our Summer Camp age group and would like to explore becoming a Brigadoon volunteer or counsellor. This is an excellent way for campers to stay connected while learning to be a strong role model to fellow campers.

2023 was our fourth year offering this program, and we had nine former campers participate - double more than ever! It’s a really special feeling for campers to return to the place that was such an integral part of their childhood and development, give back to the community, and help create magical camp experiences for the next generation of Brigadoon campers. Thank you to our donors who make this program possible so they can experience the joy of helping others in need.

2. **Camp Treasure Chest** serves campers with lung conditions and anaphylactic allergies. One of the unfortunate realities for our campers with anaphylactic allergies is that they can’t eat many foods that most of us get to enjoy regularly and often take for granted.

This summer at Camp Treasure Chest, they made donuts as part of the cooking program. The goal was to teach them to make donuts that were delicious AND safe to eat. There were several campers in the group who – because of this – were able to create and taste a donut for the very first time in their lives! Campers were very proud of their creations and grateful to go home and share their new cooking skills with their families.

3. **The giant swing** is a big hanging cable that campers harness into, and as the rest of their group pulls on a rope to haul them up, the camper release themselves and swing to great heights. It is truly loads of fun but can also be an intense and intimidating experience for some.

One day this summer, a camper climbed to the top of the ladder, but the heights were too much for him to try on his first attempt. After taking some time to watch others try it and talking with his counsellor about the experience and challenging himself, he decided that he would like to try again. The whole group cheered and supported him, and he did it! Not only did he get to have the really fun experience of the giant swing, but he was also able to walk away from that experience feeling successful and knowing that he is brave and can do hard things and overcome challenges.

4. Given the circumstances of their life challenges, some of our campers who come to Camp BELIEVE (our camp for those living with parental mental illness or addiction) can sometimes struggle to make connections with others.

One camper, in particular, was very hesitant to attend the sharing circle near the end of the week this summer. However, he made the brave choice to attend to support a new friend that he made during his week at camp. This camper also made sure to stop the sharing circle and get the group to make room as another camper joined the circle a little late. We’re very proud of how much this young camper grew during his week at camp and know the skills he learned to build connections will serve him well later in life.

5. **At the end of each week,** we lower the flag to symbolize the week of camp coming to a close. This can sometimes be sad as it means the end of such a special week of camp. Despite this sadness, one of the things that makes closing ceremonies incredibly special is that we invite the graduating campers from that week to participate. We also give our graduating campers a handmade quilt the morning of their last day at camp which they usually wrap around themselves upon receiving.

As the graduating campers lower the flag, the whole camp sings the Brigadoon Anthem. It is always such a beautiful moment of celebration and reflection of the culmination of their camp experiences.
For seven years, I have had the honour of being a staff member at Brigadoon Village. Each year, camp has given me more tools to better the lives of the people around me and my own.

Summer 2023 was an incredible growth year for me and my amazing High Ropes team. With some adjustments to our fun-filled summer camp schedule, the team provided High Ropes programming to almost 85 percent of our campers. Our program area provides our campers with an experience that would only be possible for most of them at camp. So many times, our campers get told they cannot do things due to their illnesses and conditions. Providing that opportunity to tell our campers “yes” and helping them push themselves into their challenge zones has been life-changing for our team. Showing campers that they can trust the people around them and that they can do the activities that everybody else gets to do, helps to show them that they can do even more than what they thought was possible and will always have a support system to do so.

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Words cannot describe how grateful I am to Cole, Ryan, Will, Megan, Emma, Tina, Aslan, Lauryn and Jordan, the incredible team in the sky this year, for doing everything they could to give our campers a next-level experience. The countless hours this team put in have provided our campers with lifelong memories and an even stronger understanding that they can do whatever they put their minds to.

I began working seasonally on the housekeeping staff at Brigadoon in 2017. This spring, I was offered the opportunity to become full-time as the Head Housekeeper. I accepted this with no hesitation! Brigadoon is not just my place of work, but it is my 2nd family. We all have the same goal: to make campers’ lives a bit brighter. We all work together to make this happen. Our #1 value is Campers First, and we do all that we can to uphold that and keep them safe in all aspects.

Over the summer months, my team consists of 4 full-time cleaners and myself. Brigadoon has grown significantly over the past few years, and we now have 23 buildings on site. We are kept pretty busy! We work very hard to keep things clean and safe for our campers.

Infection control is a huge part of what we do each day. You can’t see germs, so just because something looks clean, it might not be. Many of our campers have suppressed immune systems, so we are diligent about our cleaning processes. Every cabin is cleaned twice daily, and all other areas are cleaned at least once daily. Between each camp, a deep clean is done of all cabins and common areas. We have a variety of environmentally friendly cleaners that we use depending on the circumstances.

Seeing the impact that we have on our campers is so rewarding. Lives are changed by just one week of camp, and I am proud to be a part of that. Brigadoon has an environment like no other place that I have ever experienced. This is the most positive, caring, friendly, fun, helpful, supportive and loving place ever. I am absolutely thrilled to be a part of this organization.
This past July, we were honored to be included in the celebration of life for Marjorie Lindsay. Long before our facility was built, Marjorie believed in the concept of Brigadoon and the impact it would have on thousands of children.

From the very beginning, Marjorie said “Brigadoon will achieve so much more than anyone thought possible”. Passionate about mental health, children, the camp experience and carrying on her husband’s legacy, Marjorie made a significant donation to our first capital campaign, “Building Brigadoon”. In recognition of this generous contribution, a camper cabin was named in her husband’s honour. Her belief in Brigadoon was unmistakable. “Never underestimate the power of a talking woman. I’d like to think that somewhere along the line, I’ve encouraged people to either become actively involved with Brigadoon or help fund it. It’s opening a whole new world to young people and I think that’s very exciting.”

We are forever grateful to Marjorie for her support and belief in Brigadoon Village.
THANK YOU!

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